



# National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

## *New Bedford, MA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### OVERVIEW

EPA has selected the City of New Bedford as a Brownfields Pilot. New Bedford has undergone industrial changes over its history, beginning with the whaling industry that later gave way to textile and apparel manufacturing in the late 1800s. The city is working to diversify and supplement its industrial base, which has eroded due to the departure of manufacturing industries and changes in federal fishing industry policies. The city believes that the fish processing capabilities and transportation facilities in the area provide a setting with great potential for expansion of its aquaculture industry. New Bedford already has begun investigating vacant and underused industrial sites to determine their suitability for aquaculture development.

The pilot will use the city's initial investigations to identify candidate sites, many of which formerly housed mill operations. Many sites may be adapted with few modifications to the aquaculture industry. Growth of the aquaculture business will help alleviate New Bedford's economic and social problems.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*New Bedford,  
Massachusetts*

**Date of Award:**  
April 1997

**Amount:** \$172,000

**Site Profile:** The pilot will target sites that formerly supported milling or fishing operations and show potential for use in aquaculture development.

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<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

## OBJECTIVES

New Bedford's goal is to convert area brownfields into productive aquaculture sites in accordance with existing city plans. The pilot also will contribute to the Commonwealth's efforts to develop the City's aquaculture business. Pilot objectives include developing an inventory of appropriate brownfields sites, securing community input, identifying remediation costs, and documenting the process to facilitate replicability at other brownfields areas.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Developing site selection criteria, including the tax status of the property and the remedial work required;
- Evaluating potential sites for aquaculture use in accordance with the selection criteria;
- Conducting environmental assessments at two sites, including drilling, field sampling, data analysis, and report preparation; and
- Integrating site-specific data into the city's existing geographic information system.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.